Scandic Viking Aurora: Oslo to Helsinki via Lapland

OSLO · HELSINKI · ROVANIEMI

11D 10N | 25–30 PAX | STARTS OSLO | NOT INCLUDED

Journey from Oslo to Helsinki over eleven days, combining Scandinavian capitals with the landscapes and winter experiences of Finnish Lapland. Explore Oslo and Stockholm before crossing the Baltic on an overnight cruise, then travel north through Finland to the Arctic Circle. Rovaniemi anchors the Lapland experience with Santa Claus Village and a locally guided aurora hunt, while Ranua Wildlife Park, Kemi's SnowExperience365 and regional museums add depth beyond the cities. Nine hotel nights, an overnight cruise, breakfasts, dinners, airport transfers, regional transport, rail travel, touring and tipping are included. Northern Lights sightings remain weather-dependent, but late autumn and winter offer strong conditions. This route suits travellers who want Scandinavia explored thoroughly rather than sampled.

DAY

01

OSLO · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 2

Arrive Oslo — evening to yourself

You arrive in Oslo and the tour begins at the airport. A private or shared transfer brings you to the hotel in the city centre, with check-in from 14:00. Oslo is walkable from most central hotels — the waterfront opera house is 10 minutes on foot from the main station.

Oslo Airport Transfer — Private or SIC transfer from Oslo Gardermoen Airport. Your tour leader meets you on arrival.

OVERNIGHT

Oslo

DAY

02

OSLO · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 2

Oslo — Vigeland Park, Holmenkollen and Karl Johans Gate

A full day in Oslo covering the city's two most distinctive sites before a free afternoon in the city centre. Vigeland Park is the world's largest sculpture installation by a single artist — 212 bronze and granite figures by Gustav Vigeland across 80 acres. Holmenkollen is Oslo's ski jump hill, 20 minutes from the centre, with a museum and a simulator that replicates a run on the world's most demanding downhill course.

Vigeland Sculpture Park — Gustav Vigeland's life work: 212 sculptures depicting the human condition from birth to death, installed across a formal park in Frogner. Free entry. The Monolith — 14 metres of 121 interlocking human figures — is the centrepiece.

Holmenkollen Ski Museum & Simulator — The oldest ski museum in the world, tracing 4,000 years of skiing from ancient wooden planks to Olympic equipment. The ski simulator replicates the sensation of the Holmenkollen downhill run. Entrance included.

Karl Johans Gate — Oslo's main pedestrian street connecting the Central Station to the Royal Palace. The City Hall, the National Theatre and the Storting (Parliament) are along the route. Free time and shopping.

Islamic Cultural Centre Norway — Prayer stop.

MEALS

Breakfast Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Oslo

DAY

03

STOCKHOLM · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Oslo to Stockholm — by train through the forest

After breakfast, the morning is for a photo stop on the panoramic route above Oslo before heading to Oslo Central Station for the train to Stockholm. The 2nd-class train journey takes approximately 5.5 hours through Norwegian and Swedish forest — the scenery between the two capitals is the journey. You arrive in Stockholm by early evening.

Oslo panoramic photo stops — Views over the Oslofjord and the city before heading to the station. Photo stops at the Opera House, City Hall and Royal Palace.

Oslo to Stockholm by train — 2nd class InterCity rail included. Journey approximately 5.5 hours through Kongsvinger and into Värmland.

Stockholm arrival — Hotel check-in. Packed dinner or dinner at hotel.

MEALS

Breakfast

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Stockholm

DAY

04

STOCKHOLM

Stockholm — Gamla Stan and the Baltic cruise boarding

A morning in Stockholm, then the port for the overnight cruise to Helsinki. Stockholm's old town — Gamla Stan — is where the city began in 1252, and it is one of the best-preserved medieval centres in Northern Europe: cobbled lanes, 17th-century ochre buildings and the Royal Palace occupying the whole of the island. The afternoon ends at the cruise terminal.

Stockholm Orientation — Gamla Stan: the Royal Palace, Storkyrkan Cathedral, the Nobel Prize Museum and the Parliament building. Free time in the old town for exploration and shopping.

Tallink Silja Line boarding — Evening check-in to the overnight cruise to Helsinki. Dinner, entertainment, tax-free shopping and bar onboard. The crossing takes approximately 16 hours.

MEALS

Breakfast | Dinner

DAY

05

OULU · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Helsinki, Lahti and north to Oulu

You arrive in Helsinki in the morning and the coach heads north immediately — today is a transit day through Finnish Lakeland with a stop in Lahti, the gateway to the largest lake region in Europe. The drive from Helsinki to Oulu is approximately five hours.

Helsinki port arrival — Driver meets the cruise. Coach transfers north.

Lahti orientation — A short stop in the city at the edge of Finnish Lakeland. Photo stops at the City Hall, Ristinkirkko Church (by Alvar Aalto), Sibelius Hall and Mukkula Manor.

Oulu arrival — Check-in. Dinner at hotel. Oulu is Finland's fifth-largest city and the cultural capital of northern Finland.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Oulu

DAY

06

ROVANIEMI · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Oulu — Ranua Wildlife Park and north to Rovaniemi

The drive from Oulu to Rovaniemi passes through Ranua — home to the northernmost zoo in the world and one of the few places in Finland where you can see polar bears at close range. The landscape becomes noticeably more Lappish as you head north: birch and pine, flat horizons, and in October and December, the possibility of snow from the first hours. The aurora hunt begins tonight.

Oulu Orientation — Photo stops at the Cathedral, City Hall, Old Tähtitorni café and Market Square before departing north.

Ranua Wildlife Park — Home to approximately 200 animals across 50 arctic species including polar bears, wolverines, arctic foxes, lynx, grey wolves and reindeer. Entrance included. Allow 2 hours.

Rovaniemi Aurora Hunting — A local English-speaking guide leads the Northern Lights search outside the city after dark. Rovaniemi sits on the Arctic Circle; in October and December, clear nights produce some of the most visible aurora activity in the world.

MEALS

Breakfast

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Santa's Hotel Santa Claus

DAY

07

ROVANIEMI · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Rovaniemi — Santa Claus Village on the Arctic Circle

A full day at Santa Claus Village — which sits directly on the Arctic Circle line, 8 kilometres from Rovaniemi city centre. The village is designed as a commercial experience, but it is also genuinely on the Arctic Circle, the snowy landscapes of Lapland are real, and crossing the line earns a certificate. The dark sky in the evening, if clear, gives a second chance at the aurora.

Santa Claus Village — The Santa Claus Office, Christmas House, Elf's Farmyard, Mrs Claus Cottage and the Main Post Office. Free time to explore at your own pace. Arctic Circle Crossing Certificate included.

Arctic Circle crossing — The official line runs through the village. Crossing it is included.

Breath-taking snowy landscapes — Lapland in October through December: wooden lodges, snow-covered pines, and the possibility of the Northern Lights after dark.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Rovaniemi

DAY

08

VAASA · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Rovaniemi — Kemi's SnowExperience and south to Vaasa

The drive south from Rovaniemi follows the Kemijoki river to Kemi on the Gulf of Bothnia, then southwest to Vaasa. Kemi has two things worth stopping for: an indoor ice exhibition open year-round, and the oldest art museum in northern Finland.

SnowExperience365, Kemi — An indoor winter exhibition with snowy floors and large-scale ice sculptures, the theme changing seasonally. A controlled version of the Lapland winter experience, accessible regardless of weather. Entrance included.

Kemi Cultural Centre — Houses both Kemi Art Museum (the oldest art museum in northern Finland, founded 1947) and Kemi Historical Museum in the same building. Entrance included.

Vaasa arrival — Check-in and dinner at hotel. Vaasa is a bilingual Finnish-Swedish coastal city on the Gulf of Bothnia, known for its neoclassical architecture.

MEALS

Breakfast Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Vaasa

DAY

09

HELSINKI · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 2

Vaasa — Turku and into Helsinki

The drive from Vaasa to Helsinki via Turku runs the length of Finland's southwestern coastline. Turku is the stop: Finland's oldest city and its capital until 1812, with a medieval castle and a cathedral that has stood since the 13th century.

Turku Orientation — Photo stops at Turku Castle (founded 1280), Turku Cathedral, the Old Great Square, Old City Hall, Turku Library, Market Hall and the Aura Bridge over the Aurajoiki river. The Kakolanmäki hill above the city has views across the archipelago.

Helsinki arrival — Hotel check-in. Dinner at restaurant.

MEALS

Breakfast

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Helsinki

DAY

10

HELSINKI · OVERNIGHT 2 OF 2

Helsinki — seasonal activity and city orientation

A full day in Helsinki, beginning with a seasonal outdoor activity and followed by an orientation of the city. Helsinki is compact, walkable and architecturally coherent — a capital designed from scratch in the early 19th century around Senate Square.

Seasonal Activity — Oct: mushroom hunting in Finnish forest with coffee and mushroom sandwiches by a fire. Nov–Mar: reindeer park visit in Nuuksio National Park. Apr–Jun: Helsinki archipelago sightseeing boat tour including the Suomenlinna fortress (UNESCO). Jul–Sep: berry picking in the forest.

Helsinki Orientation — Senate Square, the Lutheran Cathedral, Sibelius Monument, Temppeliaukion Church (hewn from solid bedrock in 1969) and Market Square on the harbour.

Market Square — Helsinki's waterfront market with traditional food stalls, handicrafts and souvenirs. Free time.

MEALS

Breakfast · Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Helsinki

DAY

11

HELSINKI

Check out of Helsinki — airport transfer and departure

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Helsinki-Vantaa Airport for your onward flight. The tour ends at the airport. The drive from central Helsinki hotels to the airport takes approximately 30–40 minutes.

Note — No dinner is included on the departure day.

MEALS

Breakfast

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

What's Included

DEPARTS FROM	FLIGHTS	GROUP SIZE
Oslo	**Not included**	**25–30 pax**

INCLUDED

- check 9 nights accommodation at 3-star hotels
- check 1 night overnight cruise (Tallink Silja Line)
- check 10 daily breakfasts at hotels / cruise
- check 9 dinners at restaurant / packed / hotel / cruise
- check Private or SIC return airport transfers
- check Transportation as per itinerary
- check 2nd class train ticket Oslo to Stockholm
- check Orientation tours (by Tour Leader) in Oslo, Stockholm, Lahti, Oulu, Turku and Helsinki
- check Vigeland Park visit
- check Holmenkollen Ski Museum and Ski Simulator entrance
- check Ranua Wildlife Park entrance
- check Santa Claus Village visit
- check Arctic Circle Crossing Certificate
- check Aurora hunting in Rovaniemi (with local guide)
- check SnowExperience365 indoor exhibition, Kemi
- check Kemi Cultural Centre — Kemi Art Museum and Kemi Historical Museum
- check Seasonal activity in Helsinki
- check Tipping

NOT INCLUDED

- Air ticket (unless stated as included)
- Travelling visa
- Dinner on first and last day
- Lunch daily
- Personal / travel insurance
- Attraction entrance fees (unless stated as included)
- Porterage
- Personal expenses

check City / Tourist taxes

check Tour Leader